

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2007

Present: Chairman John C. Drobinski, Vice-Chairman Lawrence O'Brien, Selectman William J. Keller, Jr., and Maureen G. Valente, Town Manager

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:32 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks

At 7:32 p.m., Chairman Drobinski opened the meeting. He announced the following upcoming Town events:

Public Health Forum: The New Massachusetts Health Care Law - October 28, 2007, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Goodnow Library.

Board of Health Flu Vaccine Clinic - for Sudbury senior residents - November 5, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and November 8, 2007, from 12 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Sudbury Senior Center, 40 Fairbank Road.

Affordable Housing Public Forum - "Opening the Door: Affordable Housing in Sudbury," sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Sudbury - November 14, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at Sudbury Town Hall.

Open Plan and Space Surveys - can be accessed on the Town website, and will be accepted until November 1, 2007.

Chairman Drobinski thanked everyone from the Town staff and Public Safety Departments for the excellent job done to coordinate and organize the Special Election on October 16, 2007. On behalf of Sudbury, he congratulated Nikki Tsongas on her victorious campaign as the new State representative to Congress. He announced that the vote for the debt exclusion issue of construction of a new Police Station was defeated.

Chairman Drobinski asked residents to be particularly careful when driving next week, as children celebrate Halloween, and seek their tricks and treats. Lastly, the Chairman wished the Red Sox good luck in their quest for another World Series title.

Retiree Group Health Insurance - Plan Proposals

Present: Wayne R. Walker, Assistant Town Manager

Town Manager Valente introduced Assistant Town Manager Wayne Walker to make his yearly presentation to the Board on health and dental plan proposals for Town employees and retirees.

Assistant Town Manager Wayne Walker reported that the proposed 2008 rates reflect more moderate increases than in previous years. Mr. Walker also reported that the Insurance Advisory Committee reviewed the information, and unanimously voted to support the proposals.

Mr. Walker further reported that when all of the proposed plan increases are totaled, the combined increase will average approximately 6% for the coming year's budget. Town Manager Valente noted that three-year budget projections were prepared using an anticipated 12% increase in this line item, based upon previous increase patterns. Given that the expected increase has now been projected to be only 6%,

Ms. Valente stated that this will provide the Town budget with a bit of welcome relief.

Selectman Keller questioned whether the Town should consider elimination of the Harvard Pilgrim product as a coverage option, given that the cost of the program is significantly more expensive for similar services offered by a Blue Cross/Blue Shield program for less money. Mr. Walker responded that claims history and number of enrollees are factors in determining the percentage increase variances between Blue Cross/Blue Shield products and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. However, he further stated that the Insurance Advisory Committee has discussed these same questions, given that enrollment in the Harvard Pilgrim program is small, and has been decreasing in recent years. Mr. Walker further reported that the consensus of the Committee was to continue to offer the program for one more year, while another option can be researched to be offered to enrollees next year. At that time, the program could then be eliminated for cost-savings purposes. He also emphasized that the Town presently has a contractual obligation to present employees with a Harvard Pilgrim program, or its equivalent, offering an 80%/20% expense split. Mr. Walker also noted that a memo has been drafted to be sent to the Harvard Pilgrim enrollees, which highlights the cost variances, and encourages them to carefully consider these figures when making their plan choices. The open enrollment period for selection will begin November 1, 2007, and continue for three to four weeks to allow employees adequate time to review and choose appropriate coverage plans.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien stated that upon a quick analysis, the Town could save approximately \$110,000 if the 24 Harvard Pilgrim enrollees were to convert to the equivalent Blue Cross/Blue Shield program. He believes that the enrollees and the Town could both reap significant savings from such a conversion. Mr. O'Brien also suggested that Mr. Walker relay to the Insurance Advisory Committee that, due to escalating costs, the Board will not be inclined to support offering the Harvard Pilgrim plan next year, and that a comparable program should be sought which will not jeopardize coverage features available to enrollees.

Selectman Keller suggested that if an alternative, comparable plan cannot be found, then perhaps the Town's contribution for the Harvard Pilgrim program could be capped proportionately to its Blue Cross/Blue Shield contribution, so as to equalize the plans. Thus, the employees would ultimately decide for which program, and with how much of their own money they wanted contributed to their coverage choice. Mr. Walker replied that this option has already been broached, and will be further discussed by the Committee.

Town Manager Valente stated that the Town is self insured for many of the health options available, and hires these affiliates as third-party contractors. She reported that the self-insured model has provided the Town with significant savings in recent years.

In response to a question from Vice-Chairman O'Brien, Mr. Walker explained that the 12% increase for retiree Medex coverage is based primarily on claim history. Mr. Walker reported that Benefits Coordinator Debbie Greeno is in frequent contact with retiree enrollees to help educate them on the advantages and disadvantages of the programs available and to answer questions. He also reported that plan representatives provide in-office information sessions throughout the year to help clarify issues and identify better vendor options.

Mr. Walker reported that presently the health plans offered provide coverage for 764 enrollees as follows: 154 active Town employees, 94 Town retirees, 343 active Sudbury Public School employees, and 173 Sudbury Public School retirees.

The Board thanked Mr. Walker for his informative report.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve a contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts , Boston, MA to serve as a third-party administrator for Blue Choice, Network Blue (HMO Blue) and Medex self-funded health plans, and for BC/BS PDP plan, and further, to establish health insurance monthly working rates as shown below, and to establish that the Town contribute 75% of Blue Choice and 90% of Network Blue for active employees, and 50% of all plans for retirees, with the employee/retiree to pay the remainder, effective January 1, 2008.

	<u>Family</u>	<u>Individual</u>	
Blue Choice - self funded	\$1,585.00	\$620.00	+ 4.0%
Network Blue - self funded	\$1,480.00	\$570.00	+ 4.0%
Medex - self funded	N/A	\$163.00	+12.0%
BC/BS PDP - premium	N/A	\$151.80	+ 5.5%

It was also on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve a contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts , Boston, MA to provide dental insurance at monthly rates as shown below, and further to establish that the Town contribute 75% of active employee dental and 0% of retiree dental, with the employee/retiree to pay the remainder, effective January 1, 2008.

	<u>Family</u>	<u>Individual</u>	
BC/BS Dental Blue - premium	\$ 74.80	\$ 29.69	+ 4.0%

It was also on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve a contract with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Dedham, MA to serve as a third-party administrator for its self-funded healthcare plan, and to establish monthly health insurance working rates for the self-funded health care plan, and to establish that the Town contribute 80% for active employees, with the employee to pay the remainder, effective January 1, 2008.

	<u>Family</u>	<u>Individual</u>	
HPHC HMO - self funded	\$2,354.00	\$897.00	+18.0%

It was also on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve a contract with Tufts Health Plan, Waltham, MA to provide coverage for retirees, and to establish a monthly rate for retiree coverage as shown below, and to establish that the Town contribute 50% for retirees, with the retiree to pay the remainder, effective January 1, 2008.

	<u>Family</u>	<u>Individual</u>	
Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO - premium	N/A	\$153.00	no increase
Tufts Private Fee for Service - premium	N/A	\$165.00	new plan

It was also on motion unanimously

VOTED: To endorse new proposals to the Retiree Group Health Insurance plans, as recommended by the Employee Group Insurance Advisory Committee and the Assistant Town Manager/Personnel Director Wayne R. Walker, in communications dated October 15, 2007 and October 22, 2007.

Board of Appeals - Appointment Interview

Present: Stephen A. Garanin, appointee

Chairman Drobinski welcomed Stephen A. Garanin to the meeting, and explained that, given the proposal of a five-year term, the Board preferred to meet him prior to voting on such a lengthy appointment.

Mr. Garanin reported that he has attended Board of Appeals meetings since 2003, and has participated in many of the recent Chapter 40B discussions. Although he has considered officially joining the Board in the past, the timing was not right until now. Mr. Garanin noted that the opportunity arose to serve with the expiration of Steve Richmond's term, and he has decided now to make more of a commitment to the Board of Appeals.

Selectman Keller stated that Chapter 40B affordable housing options provide the community with diversity which is very important. Mr. Garanin concurred, and stated that he fully supports the need for affordable housing in Sudbury, and would hope that the State legislature does not vote to eliminate the mandatory guidelines. Mr. Garanin opined that progress has been made in recent years with developers, who now present the Town with better proposals to meet a variety of market needs.

In response to a question from Chairman Drobinski regarding handling public dissention to affordable housing, Mr. Garanin stated that the Board of Appeals has been successful in many recent projects in helping developers work with abutters to achieve mutually acceptable plans, including natural-vegetation screening, and monitoring and/or altering height specifications to maintain privacy.

In response to a question from Vice-Chairman O'Brien regarding the increase in applications for tear-down projects, Mr. Garanin stated that he and the Board are concerned with the recent significant increase in the number of Town applications received for these projects. Mr. Garanin stated he would support consideration of drafting guidelines to contain and/or curtail such Town-wide, tear-down activity. He reported that, while reviewing applications, the Board of Appeals carefully considers the scalability of projects for the specified lots and tries, as much as possible, to maintain the architectural and aesthetic feel of neighborhoods. Mr. Garanin suggested that multiple Town boards and committees work together to determine the best solution to this growing concern.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To rescind the appointment of Stephen A. Garanin, 39 Griscom Road, as a member of the Board of Appeals for a term to expire April 30, 2008, filling a vacancy occasioned by the term expiration of Stephen M. Richmond, as requested in a letter from Jeffrey P. Klofft, Chair of the Board of Appeals, dated September 16, 2007.

It was also on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Stephen A. Garanin, 39 Griscom Road, as a member of the Board of Appeals, for a term to expire April 30, 2012, filling a vacancy occasioned by the April 30, 2007 term expiration of Stephen M. Richmond, as requested in a letter from Jeffrey P. Klofft, Chair of the Board of Appeals, dated

September 16, 2007.

Chairman Drobinski stated that Sudbury will be well-served by this appointment, and he thanked Mr. Garanin for his interest in serving the community.

Town Forum - Goodnow Library

Selectman Keller announced that due to a personal conflict, Goodnow Library Director William Talentino, is unable to appear this evening, and has asked that the Goodnow Library presentation be rescheduled to a future date.

Town Forum - Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC)

Present: CIPC Chair Pascal Cleve and CIPC member Jose Garcia-Meitin

At 8:18 p.m., Chairman Drobinski welcomed Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) Chair Pascal Cleve and CIPC member Jose Garcia-Meitin to the meeting.

Mr. Cleve began his presentation by naming his fellow Committee members, and thanking Andrea Terkelsen, Finance Director and CIPC ex-officio member, for her assistance and guidance. He noted that presently, the Committee has two membership openings. Mr. Cleve stated that anyone interested in serving on the Committee can access an application on the Town's website.

With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Cleve reviewed the role the CIPC, as described in Section 2 of the bylaws, to annually review all capital item requests meeting certain criteria, and to assess the merit of each request. At the conclusion of its assessment, the Committee forwards its recommendations to the Finance Committee. Mr. Cleve defined a capital item as equipment, projects, and/or improvements that: a) have a useful life of at least 5 years; and b) have a single-year cost of \$10,000 or a multi-year cost of at least \$100,000.

Mr. Cleve further reported that the Committee assesses replacement/maintenance of existing assets, and the acquisition and deployment of new assets. All requests are reviewed regarding need, timing, cost and whether the item will have a positive impact and benefit to the Town and its residents. The Committee also assesses whether the item can be funded on a long-term basis to be sure that the Town can afford the ongoing expenses. Mr. Cleve noted that technology-oriented purchases require a thorough assessment to be sure they will not become quickly antiquated, and that maintenance upgrades can be financially sustained.

Mr. Cleve briefly reviewed the FY08 projects which were recommended by the Committee. He reported that, last year, the Committee assigned members as liaisons to work closely with the Fire and Police Departments, Department of Public Works and each department head to review each proposal, collect data and inventory the Town's fixed assets. Thus far, the system is evolving, and working well.

Selectman Keller commended the presentation and the Committee's work. He asked what the Committee's reaction is to the defeat at the polls for construction of a new police station. Mr. Cleve stated that the Committee has not had the opportunity to discuss the matter, since it has not met since the Special Election. However, Mr. Cleve believes the CIPC could have reviewed this request more thoroughly, but timing did not permit more options to be pursued. He reported that many residents have voiced concerns regarding the size of the proposed new station, and that perhaps, a smaller, and less costly, version of the proposal could have been passed by the electorate.

Town Manager Valente cautioned against speculative discussion on behalf of the Committee, since it had not met to discuss this matter. She stated that much of the preliminary assessment work regarding a new Police Station was performed by the Permanent Building Committee. She highlighted that Town staff are consistently working to improve the coordination of timeframes established, so that each Town committee has adequate time to research its recommendations.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien affirmed that the resident comments relayed by Mr. Cleve are valid, and consistent with those heard by the Board, but they do not negate the Town's need for a new police station.

In response to a question from Vice-Chairman O'Brien, Mr. Cleve stated that the Committee could be stronger in some areas of expertise. He encouraged anyone with building maintenance or architectural experience to consider applying for Committee membership to bring this perspective to the decision-making process.

It was noted that many worthy projects are not funded each year due to funding constraints. Town Manager Valente noted that it is important to also assess the impact of what is not done, and the long-term financial implications of delaying maintenance. She noted that the Town's infrastructure is compromised when not properly maintained. Ms. Valente stressed that preventative maintenance saves the Town money over a long period of time.

At 8:46 p.m., Chairman Drobinski thanked Mr. Cleve and Mr. Garcia-Meitin for their informative presentation and dedicated work throughout the year.

Town Forum - Finance Committee

Present: Finance Committee Chair, Charles Woodard and Finance Committee member Ralph Verni

Mr. Woodard provided the Board with a brief review of the Committee's activities this year. He reported that the Committee recommended a \$77.6 million level-staff-plus budget at the Annual Town Meeting in April 2007. Mr. Woodard also reported that the FY09 budget process is underway, and that budget hearings will be scheduled in January 2008.

Mr. Woodard stated that efforts have been made this year to collect and record data in a matrix format, which will accommodate a better review and comparison of growth rates and other information over the past three-year period. He stated that each department has been asked to submit both an override budget and a simple, level-staff budget, so that two data points can be collected.

Mr. Woodard reported that the Town's fiscal status is constrained by wages, including step and cost-of-living-increases, which account for 60% of the Town's budget. He further stated that employment benefits constitute another 18% of the budget, and that costs are growing 4-7% each year.

This year, a Budget Review Task Force was established, constituted by residents, to help review the Town's financial profile, and to help develop cost-saving and revenue-enhancement budget considerations. Mr. Woodward noted that Town revenues rely predominantly on residential taxpayers. The Task Force will work to identify ways to reduce or eliminate the fiscal structural deficit.

Mr. Woodard reported the consensus of the Committee is that the Town and Sudbury Public Schools are well managed, and that significant cost savings have been realized in recent years. However, Mr. Woodard emphatically stated that if the Town wishes to maintain services at current levels, it will likely be necessary to present another override budget at the 2008 Town Meeting. He encouraged the public to follow, and participate in, the budget process throughout the year.

Chairman Drobinski thanked Mr. Woodard for the Committee's realistic report. He noted that although the message is not welcomed, it is important that the community understand the financial challenges the Town faces, so that the public can make informed decisions when voting.

Mr. Woodard reported that the Finance Committee is presently fully staffed with nine members. He also noted that it is important for residents to consider Proposition 2 1/2 in the proper perspective.

Mr. Verni reported that, although budget discussions are in the very early stages, he has been notified that Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School has seen an increase again in student population, and that Special Education increases are also expected.

At 9:01 p.m., Chairman Drobinski announced the conclusion of the Town Forum.

Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee (RTCAC) - Committee Notebook Presentation

Present: RTCAC Chair Patricia Brown and RTCAC member Nancy J. Powers

At 9:02 p.m., Chairman Drobinski welcomed Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee Chair Pat Brown to the meeting.

The Board was previously in receipt of the draft report to date for the Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee Notebook, including history of the proposal, the RTCAC general history, status of assigned tasks, Fay, Spofford and Thorndike feasibility study, meetings held with Town boards, committees tasks, public outreach of the RTCAC and references. Town Manager Valente also re-distributed a memorandum dated May 4, 2007, which summarized a schedule of tasks and responsibilities for the next stage of rail trail development, along with a proposed timeline.

Ms. Brown reported that the Committee will next meet on October 25, 2007. She hopes to begin to apportion larger projects into smaller sections which will be more doable. Ms. Brown further reported that much of the Committee's research thus far has been posted on the Town's website, with reference links provided for additional background information. Ms. Brown reported that the Committee has not received any negative feedback to the information provided to the public. Thus, the Committee has assumed that the absence of any critique has constituted tacit approval of its work to date and dissemination of information.

Selectman Keller complimented Ms. Brown and the Committee on the thoroughness and depth of information available on the website. Vice-Chairman O'Brien concurred, noting that the significant amount of work already accomplished was evident in reading the Committee's chronology of activity. Mr. O'Brien opined that this notebook has been conceptualized so well that it could become a model for future projects.

Ms. Brown stated it is the Committee's hope that Director of Public Works Bill Place will be able to obtain detailed information regarding the State's vision for the 2007 Bicycle Plan when he meets with the Massachusetts Highway Department tomorrow. Ms. Valente will share that request with Mr. Place.

Town Manager Valente provided the Board with a brief status update regarding the three Rail Trail related articles passed at the 2007 Town Meeting. She announced that Town Counsel Paul Kenny had engaged a Special Counsel to study deed and title documents for the rail trail corridor. At this time, no impediments to the project have been identified. Ms. Valente further reported that she and Conservation Coordinator Debbie Dineen and Director of Planning and Community Development Jody Kablack had developed the RFP for the four-season wildlife study, which received two respondents. The respondent chosen is the "Call of the Wild" organization. She also reported that Director of Public Works Bill Place is

developing the survey and engineering RFP. In addition, Town Counsel Kenny has worked with the Massachusetts Highway Department to ensure that all personnel involved in these projects are legally accessing the trail, and to clarify any liability issues. Overall, Ms. Valente opined that work, so far, is progressing according to the proposed timeframes.

Ms. Brown asked the Board how often, and in what form, it would prefer to receive future reports. Chairman Drobinski suggested a brief ten-minute presentation possibly three times a year should be sufficient. It was also suggested that in busier times of the year, email communications could be sent from the Committee to update the Board. Town Manager Valente will coordinate the next report update for a proposed February 2008, or other Board meeting.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee Notebook as presented this evening by the Committee chair, Pat Brown.

Public Hearing - Temporary Construction Trailer Permit

Present: Martin Loiselle, Permitting/Development Manager of Capital Group Properties

At 9:15 p.m., Chairman Drobinski opened the public hearing regarding placement of a temporary construction trailer by Capital Group Properties, on the former Mahoney Farm property located between Nobscot Road and Old Framingham Road, to October 31, 2008, as requested by Martin Loiselle, Permitting/Development Manager of Capital Group Properties in an email message dated October 11, 2007. Town Manager Valente reported that the hearing was duly noticed and abutters were appropriately notified. She also reported that the Sudbury Police and Fire Chiefs and the Building Inspector have expressed no objections to this request.

In response to questions from Vice-Chairman O'Brien, Mr. Loiselle reported that the Mahoney development is planned for 33 units, of which five are occupied and four units have pending sales. He stated that the landscaping for Phase 1 is nearly complete, after which, sales are expected to accelerate. He also advised that the sales trailer will be removed next week. Mr. Loiselle also confirmed that the trailer is also being used for the Grouse Hill development across the street from Mahoney Farms. He reported that the Grouse Hill development is planned for 52 units, and are selling at a faster rate due to lower pricing. Mr. Loiselle further stated that it is possible he will need to request a meeting with the Board next year to extend the trailer permit again for Grouse Hill, and to request that it be moved across the street.

Chairman Drobinski noted that no abutters are present this evening, and Town Manager Valente confirmed that no abutter objections have been received by Town staff.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To close the public hearing regarding a request, dated October 11, 2007, from Martin Loiselle, Permitting/Development Manager of Capital Group Properties for the Mahoney Farms Senior residential Project, 30 Nobscot Road, to extend the construction trailer permit through October 31, 2008.

It was also on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approval a request, dated October 11, 2007, from Martin Loiselle, Permitting/Development Manager of Capital Group Properties for the Mahoney Farms Senior residential Project, 30 Nobscot Road, to extend the construction trailer permit through October 31, 2008.

At 9:20 p.m., Chairman Drobinski closed the public hearing.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the regular and executive session minutes of September 17, 2007, and the regular session minutes of October 9, 2007.

Special Town Meeting Warrant

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: Pursuant to bylaw Art. II, s. 1, to announce the opening this evening, October 23, 2007, of the Warrant for Special Town Meeting of December 3, 2007, and to announce the close of the Warrant at 5:00 p.m. on November 2, 2007.

2010 Federal Census - Local Census Liaison

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Town Clerk Rosemary B. Harvell, 301 Hudson Road, as the Local Census Liaison for an indefinite term to work with State and Federal officials concerning the 2010 Federal Census.

Executive Office of Public Safety - FY08 Community Policing Grant

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept a FY08 Community Policing Grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety in the amount of \$18,024, and to authorize its expenditure under the direction of the Police Chief.

Knights of Columbus - One-Day Wine and Malt Beverages License

Town Manager Valente noted that Building Inspector Jim Kelly has recommended that the customary \$25 fee be waived. She also reported that the Police and Fire Chiefs support the requested license and foresee no public safety issues.

Selectman Keller asked the community to support the Graceffa family, by attending this event, which will include a silent auction.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To grant a one-day Wine and Malt Beverages License to Francis T. Lyons, 157 Wayside Road, representing the Knights of Columbus, to be exercised on Saturday, November 10, 2007, from 7:30 p.m. to approximately 11:30 p.m., at St. Anselm's Church to accommodate a fundraising event for Justin Graceffa, a 21-year old victim of a serious spinal cord injury, and to waive the customary \$25 fee.

Frost Farm House Rehabilitation

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve a contract between the Town of Sudbury and William G. Braun for the rehabilitation of the Town-owned Frost Farm House, 142 North Road, based on the Request for Proposals, dated August 17, 2007, and the Braun proposal dated September 26, 2007, subject to finalization by Town Counsel.

Granite State Minerals, Inc. - Cooperative Award Bid Contract

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve an award of contract to Granite State Minerals, Inc. for mined salt, delivered effective November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008, in the amount of \$53.33/ton, in accordance with the rates set forth in the bid dated October 11, 2007, and the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Bid for the Towns of Acton, Berlin, Bolton, Boxborough, Concord, Harvard, Hudson, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury and Wayland.

Reports From the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Keller reiterated his hope that the community will support the fundraising event at St. Anselm's Church, on Saturday, November 10, 2007, from 7:30 p.m. to approximately 11:30 p.m., to help Justin Graceffa, a 21-year old victim of a serious spinal cord injury, and his family. He noted that prior to the accident, Justin attended the Berklee College of Music. Some of Justin's fellow students from Berklee will provide the evening's entertainment.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien attended the Budget Review Task Force meeting last night, which featured Town Manager Valente as the guest speaker. Ms. Valente focused her presentation on capital planning and the Town budget process. Ms. Valente announced she has been invited back to the Task Force's October 29, 2007 meeting, when she will address debt revenue, Proposition 2 1/2 and structural deficit issues. The group has invited the Sudbury Public Schools to its meeting after that.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien also reported that a Sudbury Housing Roundtable was held last night. This forum is scheduled twice a year to help stimulate an exchange of ideas regarding Town housing-related topics. Last Wednesday, he also attended an affordable housing information session organized by Housing Specialist Beth Rust. Mr. O'Brien reported that six potential applicants attended, and lottery information for affordable units is available on the Town's website.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien also attended, along with Town Manager Valente and a number of representatives from many wide-ranging Town entities, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) tabletop exercise this morning. The program was organized by LEPC Chair Richard Simon and Fire Chief MacLean and focused on preparation for a hurricane. Ms. Valente reported that future mock drills will be planned. She also opined that a temporary Town emergency response center needs to be designated.

Chairman Drobinski reported that he attended the Community Preservation Committee meeting on October 17, 2007. He stated that the Committee has begun its review of funding proposals, and it will conduct a series of public hearings in the near future.

Reports From the Town Manager
Sudbury Cultural Council - Member Disclosure Form

Town Manager Valente distributed an email message from the Council's Chair William J. Nicholson, Jr., dated October 22, 2007, noting that Council member Ellen Hoffman has been named as an artist in a grant submitted by the Goodnow Library. Ms. Hoffman has volunteered to recuse herself from the discussion of that particular application.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: Pursuant to MGL 268A, s. 19, regarding a financial interest in a particular matter, and as the Local Legislative Body for the Town of Sudbury, to approve signing of the Local Cultural Council Member Disclosure Form for Ellen Hoffman, 21 Hawes Road.

Victory Cigar and Sky Restaurant - Closing Hour Extensions

Town Manager Valente distributed to the Board requests from both Victory Cigar and Sky Restaurant to change their licenses for the duration of the World Series to 1:00 a.m. In addition, Sky Restaurant has also requested an extension to 1:00 a.m. for closing on November 21, 2007.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve an extension of the closing hour and the serving of alcoholic beverages at Victory Cigar and Sky Restaurant until 1:00 a.m. during the World Series' games, on the condition that the kitchens remain open and food is served; and also to approve a one-hour extension of the serving hour for Sky Restaurant on Wednesday, November 21, 2007, on the condition that the kitchen remains open and food is served.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien asked Ms. Valente, and she agreed, to request that Building Inspector Kelly inspect recent sign postings by Victory Cigar.

MetroWest Growth Management Committee - Regional Transportation Authority

Town Manager Valente has met with Sudbury Council on Aging Director Kristin Kiesel and Director of Planning and Community Development Jody Kablack to further discuss representation within, and the benefits of joining the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (RTA). If Sudbury votes to join the MWRTA, Ms. Kiesel has offered to represent the Town at meetings. All have agreed to recommend that Sudbury join the MWRTA at this time, to begin participation in the process so as to ensure the preservation, and cultivate the enhancement, of the Town's transportation options for senior and disabled citizens.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien suggested that Ms. Kiesel also coordinate input to, and representation on, the MWRTA with Youth Coordinator Jessica Bendel to determine if youth services could also be incorporated into the process.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to notify the Executive Office of Transportation, or appropriate office, that the Town of Sudbury is interested in joining the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority to provide cost-efficient public transportation to its residents.

Massachusetts Municipal Management Association (MMA)

Town Manager Valente announced that she has been elected as the Association's new President, effective January 1, 2008. One of the many issues she hopes to address during her term, is the need to encourage and recruit new, talented professionals to pursue municipal governance as a career. The Board congratulated her on this honor.

Ms. Valente also reported that she, Wayne Walker and Peter Harvell attended an informative, and emotionally moving, seminar sponsored by MMA with Veterans' Agents. The program was also attended by two Gold Star mothers who shared how meaningful a Town's support can be during difficult times. Ms. Valente has requested that Assistant Town Manager Wayne Walker and Sudbury Veterans' Agent Peter Harvell appraise themselves of the current and proper protocols, which Sudbury should implement to support soldiers returning home from service.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council - MAGIC Legislative Breakfast Meeting

Town Manager Valente attended the Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) subregion Legislative Breakfast on October 22, 2007. She reported that many attendees stated transportation issues as their highest priority. She also highlighted senior tax relief as a concern, although other communities did not express this as a similar concern. Ms. Valente reported that many attendees voiced their opposition to casinos in Massachusetts, since it appears that none of those revenues would be redistributed to the local municipalities. Other issues discussed at the meeting were the future of Community Preservation Act funding and the proposed 40T legislation.

Senior Tax Relief

Town Manager Valente briefly reviewed her email message to the Board dated October 17, 2007, regarding her conversation with David Levington about senior tax relief options. Mr. Levington has recommended that a Town Meeting article be developed to revise the senior tax deferral program to increase membership, and to raise the qualifying income level.

Chairman Drobinski opined that this recommendation should be pursued, since it is consistent with the Selectmen's goals for this year.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager and Town staff to develop revisions to the senior tax deferral program to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for review and possible submission as a Town Meeting article.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council - Proposed New Regional Planning Agency (RPA)

Town Manager Valente distributed to the Board copies of a recent *Boston Globe* article regarding the pending Senate Bill SB 1199 sponsored by State Senator Karen Spilka. This bill proposes to create a new regional planning agency (RPA) by removing Sudbury from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and several other towns from their preset regional planning commission. Ms. Valente noted that, to date, no Sudbury official has been contacted directly about this change. Ms. Valente expects to receive more detailed

information this week and will forward it to the Board for further review. She also stated that Director of Planning and Community Development Jody Kablack will broach this matter with the Planning Board. The Planning Board will present its opinion to the Selectman for further consideration at a future Board meeting.

Construction of a New Police Station - Future Planning

Town Manager Valente requested guidance, from the Board, regarding the pursuit of future efforts for Town acceptance of a new Police Station, as presented in her email message to the Board, dated October 23, 2007. She noted that a decision should be made soon as to whether to present the need for a new Police Station again at next year's Town Meeting, or to advance to the community for consideration and acceptance other capital projects in need of completion.

Ms. Valente suggested that, if the intent is to present the Police Station to the voters again, then perhaps an ad hoc committee could be established to develop a questionnaire to gather more information as to why it has not passed twice at the polls, so that these objections could be better overcome in the future.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien stated he believes the failure of this venture has been related more to a rejection of additional taxes than a rejection of the need for a new Police Station. Thus, he believes a questionnaire could be helpful to the future process. He noted that, although the voters rejected this year's proposal, the Board should present another plan, reduced in scale, and cost, by possibly 25% or 50%.

Selectman Keller agreed that presenting the community with a new plan that costs 25% less, and educating the voters more about the sale of the present station going against the debt incurred, should be pursued.

Chairman Drobinski opined that an ad hoc group should be assembled as soon as possible to begin work on the questionnaire and responses to frequently asked questions. Vice-Chairman O'Brien encouraged anyone interested in participating in this process to contact the Town Manager's Office, particularly those who have building construction or maintenance experience.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to develop a questionnaire and other resources which could assist the Town in determining the proper future direction for presentation of proposals for a new Police Station.

U.S. Mayor's Association - Town Video Vignettes

Town Manager Valente reported to the Board that the U.S. Mayor's Association has provided information to cities and towns regarding the opportunity, through CGI Communications, to produce Town video vignettes to promote community features. A decision is needed by October 26, 2007, as to whether Sudbury would like to sign a three-year agreement. Ms. Valente reported that IT Specialist Mark Thompson is enthusiastic about the program. The Board briefly reviewed a sample video on Ms. Valente's computer.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Manager to proceed with the agreement process with CGI Communications Inc. to create a Sudbury video vignette presentation.

Executive Session

At 10:35 p.m., Chairman Drobinski announced the close of the regular meeting and it was on roll call unanimously

VOTED: To go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and collective bargaining.

Chairman Drobinski announced regular session would not reconvene following Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk